

Fragments and Run-Ons

Teaching

Sentence fragments and run-on sentences are writing errors that can make your writing difficult to understand.

A **sentence fragment** is part of a sentence that is written as if it were a complete sentence. A sentence fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or both.

Fragments Colonists in Indian costume. (missing a predicate)
 Dumped chests of tea into Boston Harbor. (missing a subject)
 On December 16, 1773. (missing both)

Revision Colonists in Indian costume dumped chests of tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.

A run-on sentence is two or more sentences written as if they were a single sentence. When you combine two sentences with a conjunction, use a comma before the conjunction.

Run-on The British tried to make the colonists pay taxes they resisted.

Revision The British tried to make the colonists pay taxes, but they resisted.

Identifying Sentences, Sentence Fragments, and Run-Ons

On the short line at the right of each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence.

1. British soldiers marched toward Concord, Massachusetts. _____
2. They hoped to capture arms stored in Concord, Paul Revere and William Dawes raced to warn the colonists. _____
3. The Minutemen from nearby towns. _____
4. Waited for the British in Lexington. _____
5. Clashes in Lexington and Concord started the American Revolution. _____
6. George Washington became the army's commander-in-chief he took command on July 3, 1775. _____
7. Poorly trained and without uniforms. _____
8. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776 it was written by Thomas Jefferson. _____
9. A young officer, Nathan Hale. _____
10. Hale was hanged by the British as a spy he became a hero to the Americans. _____
11. France joined the war as an ally of the Americans. _____
12. The British were defeated at the battle of Yorktown it meant the end of the war. _____

**Lesson
10**

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More Practice

A. Identifying and Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

On the line after each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence. Then rewrite each fragment or run-on as one or more correct sentences. Add sentence parts as needed.

1. Because of the bad weather.

2. The boys rode the roller coaster five times in a row.

3. The curtain opened the show began.

4. Explained the rules of the game.

5. This restaurant serves great pizza let's eat here.

B. Correcting Fragments and Run-ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or you may combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

Patrick Henry failed as a storekeeper and a farmer he became a lawyer.
He became famous. As an orator. Patrick Henry delivered a speech protesting
the Stamp Tax it was one of his greatest speeches. During a speech in 1775.
Henry pretended to stab himself with a letter opener he cried, "Give me
liberty or give me death!" Henry became governor. Of Virginia. In 1776. He
was re-elected governor four times.

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Application

A. Proofreading for Fragments and Run-Ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or you may combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

During the American Revolution, Great Britain had an army of well-trained soldiers the British soldier had a hard life. He rarely had much food. Was often moldy. His uniform was attractive. Was not practical. His hat did not offer much protection from the sun his suits were heavy. And hot. On one summer march. Near New York City. Sixty-three soldiers collapsed from heatstroke.

B. Recognizing and Revising Fragments and Run-ons

Read these notes one student wrote to use in a report. First figure out what the writer was going to say, and then use the information to write a paragraph. Use complete sentences instead of fragments and run-on sentences. Add any words that you need to make the paragraph understandable.

Children around the world enjoy playing with dolls adults enjoy dolls too. Many grown-ups collect antique dolls others collect costume dolls. As a hobby. The first dolls for children were made in the 1700s they looked and were dressed like adults. The first dolls that looked like babies. Appeared about 1850. Antique dolls are rare and expensive. Sell for thousands of dollars. Many museums huge doll collections.
